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SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1898.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE MADE TO

UNDERSTAND IT.

We can add very little that is new to

what we have already said in regard to

the Senate's resolution declaring that our

national bonds are payable in silver dol-

lars, but the opponents of the measure

openly declare that it is intended as a

part of the programme of the national

campaign in 1900, and the advocates of a

sound financial system for this country

should not omit a full discussion of it

now while popular attention is fixed upon

it.

There was never the slightest reason

for bringing this resolution forward at

this time. When the law was passed

authorizing the issue of the government's

bonds now outstanding the "dollars" of

the government were silver as well as

gold, as they now are. The bonds simply

promise "dollars" and, of course, the

government had a right to pay any dol-

lars that were dollars. No one in his

senses could ever have thought, therefore,

of denying that the government had the

right to pay the bonds in silver dollars.

In addition to this, the late Stanley Mat-

thews offered the identical resolution in

the Senate twenty years ago, and it was

then passed and has stood on the records

of the Senate ever since unrepented. It

was then declared to be the sense of the

Senate that the bonds were payable in

silver; that has ever since remained the

declared sense of the Senate, and it could

not possibly be made any more the sense

of the Senate by passing the resolution

again than it already was. The whole

thing, therefore, was mere leather and

prunella that counts for absolutely no-

thing. It is fortunate for the country,

however, that nothing more will ever be

heard of this resolution in Congress, in

all probability. It will now go to the

House of Representatives and will be

probably referred to the Committee on

Coinage, and there it will forever rest

amongst other forgotten things.

Nothing, therefore, has been done to

believe that the silver agitation was over,

and this excitement may have an un-

favorable influence upon the revival of

business, that is as going on so steadily

and so surely for the past few months.

Possibly that may be avoided, and if it is

then the whole discussion has been a case

of beating the air.

We cannot for our life understand how

any man who believes in the principles

of fair dealing should be willing to pay

our bonds in silver if the silver dollar

were not kept up at par by the govern-

ment—if, in other words, it was allowed

to shift for itself and it should fall in

value to what it is really worth, forty-

four cents. We understand, of course,

how there might be some sort of equity

in doing this as against a man who

bought a bond during the war for sixty

cents on the dollar.

But the bonds are payable to the

bearer, and ever since the country re-

sumed specie payments all the interest

has been paid regularly in gold or its

equivalent.

Now, suppose some citizen of Russia,

seeing the bonds payable to the bearer

and knowing that the government al-

ways had been paying the interest in

gold, had given one thousand gold dol-

lars for a bond under the belief that the

government considered the bonds gold

bonds. Would it be fair to him to

insist upon a hidden right of

cure of which he never heard

and pay him only forty-four cents

when he had expected to get a dollar?

Would he not have been justified in thinking

under the circumstances that sur-

rounded the case when he bought the

bond, that our government intended the

bond to believe that it would always

consider and treat its bonds as gold

bonds? If he would have been justified

in thinking this would it be fair to him

to avail ourselves of a technical right

in the law that we had to pay the bond

off in the depreciated silver dollars?

It seems to us that to ask the question

is to answer it. We do not see how we

can, consistently with honesty, fair-deal-

ing and justice, pay our bonds in any-

thing else but gold.

A STUDY IN BLACK.

In the January Bulletin of the Department of Labor is a "Social Study of the Negroes of Farmville, Va." by Professor W. E. Burghardt Du Bois, himself a negro born and raised in New England, who spent the months of July and August, 1897, at that point in making investigations. Farmville was selected because of the large percentage of negro population.

He begins by saying that a century ago Prince Edward county, of which Farmville is the county seat, had a population of 8,000 evenly divided between whites and blacks; to-day it has a population of 14,000, but the increase is almost entirely among the blacks. In 1860 there were 352 slave holders, holding 7,341 slaves. In 1897, there were about 5,000 whites and 9,000 negroes. The total valuation of real estate and personal property in the county in 1890 was \$2,397,007. In 1895, the value of farming lands owned by the whites was \$1,064,180; by the negroes \$122,189. In 1891, the negroes owned 12,215 acres of land; in 1895, 15,555 acres.

The population of Farmville in 1890 was composed of 961 whites and 1,443 negroes. The negro population at the present time is about one hundred less.

The professor is interested to note a decrease in the marriage rate among the blacks. In slavery times, he says, marriage was entered upon early in life, and the same was true of the first generation of freedmen. But the second generation is postponing marriage. This he says, necessarily leads to two evils, bad morals and restricted influence of family life. He found in the town of Farmville 41 illegitimate negro children under ten years of age.

As to education, he found that of 267 children between the ages of five and fifteen, about fifty-six per cent. attended school. He estimates that about forty-two per cent. of the negro population can read and write.

The negroes are occupied as follows: In professional occupations, 22; in domestic, 28; in commercial, 45; in agricultural, 15; in industrial, 32; not engaged in gainful occupations, 250, and not reported, 14.

Using a different classification, he finds those working on their own account, 35; laboring class, 250; house service, 92; day service, 19; at home, unemployed, and dependent, 230; professional and clerical, 24; and not reported, 14.

The leading barber is the richest negro, and is reported to be worth \$10,000. The town jailer is a negro and there are seven grocery stores conducted by black men. There are no negro doctors or lawyers. Richmond negroes own and conduct the steam laundry. Very little clerical work is done by the blacks.

The inevitable "servant girl" problem claims a part of the professor's attention and he tells us that there is considerable dissatisfaction over the State of domestic service.

The negroes are coming to regard the work as a relic of slavery and as degrading, and only enter it from sheer necessity, and then as a temporary makeshift. Employers, on the other hand, find an increasing number of careless and impudent young people who neglect their work, and in some cases show vicious tendencies, and demoralize the children of the family. They may lawfully, partly because the Southern custom compels families, who ought to do their own work, to hire help, and they cannot afford to pay much; partly, too, because they do not believe the service of a colored woman to be degrading, and they are often careful to tender as little for it as possible. They grow to despise the menial work they do, partly because their employers themselves despise it and teach their daughters to do the same.

But the negroes themselves, he adds, are now beginning to hire servants and he found ten negro families in Farmville, which hire help.

After making a careful study of conditions in Farmville, he thinks it fair to conclude that the industrious and property-accumulating class of negro citizens best represents on the whole, the general tendencies of the group. At the same time the mass of sloth and immorality is still large and threatening. He does not pretend to say how far Farmville's conditions are true of other sections of Virginia.

A CONTEMPORARY COMPLAINT.

The Baltimore Manufacturers' Record complains sorely of The Times that it "circulated an ugly word" against it in characterizing a recent publication of the Record's, about the South as "slandering."

"We confess that the word was a harsher term than the occasion warranted, and we assure our contemporary that we did not mean to be offensive. We do not believe that the Manufacturers' Record, which has done such valiant work in depicting the South, is capable of intentionally slandering it."

We did think, however, and do think that our contemporary's article was too sweeping, and that it did the South an injustice.

"Some communities" is an indefinite term, and may mean many sections. But let us quote the Record's article. After reviewing the opportunities of the South it said:

"These facts give the South an opportunity such as no other section ever enjoyed. Populism, though strong in some places, has not yet become the dominant power of evil. Some of its legislation, enacted and threatened, has, however, greatly retarded all business interests. To this may be added the indifference of some communities in promptly meeting their obligations, thus making all alike suffer. This is due mainly to a failure to appreciate the necessity of a strict compliance with the spirit and letter of financial obligations."

"The men of affairs of the South and the honest legislator appreciate this situation; the blame does not rest upon them except indirectly. Nowhere can a higher sense of business honor be found than in this section. But the men of character have been too much absorbed in their own business affairs, in their farms, their factories, their mercantile interests, to fully see the necessity of combating the work of the scheming, visionary politicians, who find a easier way to the government in seeking to devise dishonest legislation, and thus the honest, intelligent legislators find themselves without adequate moral backing on the part of the people. The time has come when the honest men of the South, whether in business or not, to unite against the work of demagogues."

With wise legislation, freedom from Populist agitation against capital and corporations, and a strong support of all laws looking to the equitable protection of investments the South will command

millions of capital for railroad improvements, new municipal improvements and new industrial enterprises. Will the people of the South make the most of this opportunity?

We say that it is easy for those not informed to infer from the above that conditions cited are the rule in the South, when such is not the fact. However, in our comments, we were candid enough to admit that there was ground for the Record's article. "Wherein," it asks, "does The Times differ from the Manufacturer's Record?" In these essentials, we reply: that while we admitted that Populism had found a temporary abiding place in the South, it was receding, as evidenced by the fact that the recent session of the Georgia Legislature did not entertain a single measure in restraint of enterprise; that while we admitted that Populism attempts had been made at repudiation, we cited the isolated cases and noted the strong protest of press and people; that we insisted in conclusion that the Southern people were honest and progressive.

We submit that the outsider who reads the article in The Times will get an impression very different from that which the Record's article would make on his mind.

We have gone thus at length into the subject not to combat our Baltimore contemporary, but to do full justice.

TILLMANISM IN VIRGINIA.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Portsmouth Star, is still of opinion that the Legislature of Virginia has given unmistakable proof of its devotion to Tillmanism and Albigensism in refusing to elect to office any man who did not support the Chicago platform in 1896.

As we said in answer to the Star's first article, there are men in the Legislature of extreme views, who would, no doubt, prefer an intensified edition of the Chicago platform in 1900. But there are many others who believe in old-fashioned Democracy, and who would see the next national platform purged of every semblance of Tillmanism, Albigensism and Populism. They have never believed in these things, so utterly at variance with true Democracy, yet being strong party men, they have stood by the organization and have not been willing to elect to office men who are known in this parlance as bolters. We say that this does not indicate that they are Albigens, but simply that they are party men.

The Star ridicules the suggestion of The Times that these men have a high regard for those Democrats who conscientiously refused to support the Chicago platform. We quote:

"The Legislature holds in high regard the anti-Tillman Democrat, even while turning him out of the judiciary for being such."

"The Legislature respects the conscience of the conscientious Democrat, but if said Democrat be not a Tillmanite, an Albigensite, the respect of the Legislature, as to him, begins and ends with his conscience."

Our contemporary overlooks the fact that in the case to which it has reference, many of the members in caucus gave Judge Newman a cordial support, and he was defeated by a slender majority.

The Blackston Courier says:

"The bill introduced by Senator Withers, of Danville, to again submit the question of a constitutional convention to a vote of the people is all right and proper, and in thorough accordance with the views as often expressed in these columns, but, as also previously expressed, we are not in favor of it. There are many who are opposed to a convention. It may meet with a second defeat. Doubtless the same elements who opposed it before may oppose it again. While we believe that a majority of the people believe that it would do it, it would not be well to be prepared with a substitute should that fall of the necessary votes."

This substitute should be in the form of amendments passed by the Legislature along the lines of reforms suggested and promised. Should we not have the convention we might gain these.

If the Legislature would act on our "substitute" prepared by our contemporary, there would be no occasion for calling a convention. There is no reason under the sun why any changes in the constitution, barring always a change of the right of suffrage, may not be made through the simple and inexpensive process of amendments which originate in the General Assembly and are finally passed upon by the people.

But those members of the Legislature who are so clamorous for constitutional revision seem to be unwilling to have it except through the convention process.

The mild winter has been entirely free from deaths of Washington's body servants, and the only survivor of Balaklava.

About 25,000 cats were killed last year at the Morris Refuge for Friendless Animals. Strange, but cats always show up well in the lists of friendly creatures.

The time will soon arrive now when even the ground hog will have a show.

A Missouri girl bursts into verse in these tender words: "I stand in the twilight; I'm kissed by the dew." Nobody would think the dew would drop to such a job as that.

Philadelphia claims to have a man who has not slept for fifteen years. Probably old man Quay's first lieutenant.

A bottomless pit has been discovered in Dakota. That's about the kind of a time most people have who go out there.

The proposition to have the government make its own powder will doubtless be duly explicated in Congress.

Walcott would be an ideal heavy villain in the "Curse of Gold" company.

Tucker—I see by the sugar beet bill that the convicts will get out of the penitentiary.

Hawkins—Be pardoned?

Tucker—No, rented out.

There will be no retrenchment as long as representatives from counties which draw thousands from the State in excess of what they pay in, insist that criminal fees shall remain as they are.

Secretary of the Navy Long turns out to be a total abstainer, but then he is expected to put in his work on water anyhow.

After a bitter fight by the wife, the North Dakota court refused George

Hugg a divorce from his wife. What girl would willingly give up a good Hugg.

It is to be hoped that the Maine will not feel called upon to pursue any Tom Reed tactics.

Of course Kentucky will properly resent the affront this awful Republican administration would cast upon her in having the battleship christened with water.

Terrible Disaster.

Smiths—Were you ever in a railway disaster?

Brown—Yes. I once kissed the wrong girl in a tunnel.—Boston Traveler.

Playmate Wanted.

Well, how do you like your new little sister?

Bertie—Oh, nurse, ask mamma not to name it a girl name. It a boy, so I can have a kid to play with.—New York Truth.

She Talks Now.

Smith—Isn't amawley a lecturer?

Jones—He was before his marriage.

Smith—And now?

Jones—He is the audience.—Chicago News.

Dry Argument.

A wealthy young lawyer spent two days and nights over one case, and at the end of that time could not tell which side he was on. It was a case of champagne.—Chicago News.

Turned On the Hose.

Judge—Do you mean to say that you were the last person to play on the old opera-house stage?

Witness—Yes, your honor, I'm a fireman.—Odds and Ends.

Why He Was Alive.

Mrs. Newsypatched (with evident surprise)—Aren't you the very man I gave some cake to only two days ago?

Perambulating Pete (in explanation)—Yes'm. Y'see, I didn't eat it.—Brooklyn Eagle.

One Better.

I have a doctor's certificate here that I cannot sing to-night," said the prima donna.

"What?" roared the manager. "I'll give you a certificate that you never could sing."—Detroit Free Press.

On the Road.

Bill—I see a Milwaukee railroad has discharged several Indian conductors for appropriating money.

Jill—Perhaps the Indians believed that none but the braves deserved the fare.—Yonkers Statesman.

Sure.

"The proper thing to do," said the elderly matron, "is to manage a man without letting him know it."

"But," asked the younger one, "where would the satisfaction come in if he did not know it?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Up to Date Parson.

"My friends," said the minister, earnestly, "let us beware of Satan. We know that he scatters tacks along the narrow way in order that the just may puncture their tires."

And, as the congregation pedaled homeward, many a member thought of the parson's words.—Puck.

Your Heart and Mine.

Your heart and mine are like two waves each having broken 'pon a barren shore And finding naught there, but the graves Of memories and fancy, turn once more To add a sob unto the ocean's roar.

But drawn again into this sea, Your heart strikes mine, and on and on side by side, United by a sympathy Which breeds true love; we swell the restless tide.

"Till we shall break upon an unknown land Called 'Happiness,' where we may rest To mingle kisses on the cool white sand, And cast our tears upon the ocean's breast."

—KATHARINE MILLER GUNN.

AFTERMATH.

Secretary Alger getting along well and will be removed to the mountains of South Carolina this week. He has been suffering from grippe and malaria.

It is said that young Leiter stands to win at present not less than \$250,000 on his wheat deal.

Dr. Nansen made a recent statement in New York to the effect that he would probably join Lieutenant Peary in his next polar expedition.

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